

ATTACHMENT A – CLEAN COPY

Please add the following new claims:

23. A process for treatment of gases that are exhausted through a sinter bed in a sintering plant, wherein a distinction can be made between a cold zone of the
5 sintering plant with relatively low gas temperatures and a hot zone of said sintering plant with substantially higher gas temperatures, said process comprising the steps of:

10 separately exhausting said gases from said cold zone and from said hot zone, so as to obtain a partial flow from said cold zone and a partial flow from said hot zone;

subjecting said partial flow from said cold zone and said partial flow from said hot zone to a separate treatment;

wherein the treatment of said partial flow from said hot zone includes:

15 heating said partial flow from said hot zone in a CO-catalyzer by burning CO gas contained therein; and

subsequently treating said partial flow from said hot zone in a catalyzer for reducing hydrocarbons, in particular dioxins and furanes, contained therein.

24. The process according to claim 23, wherein said treatment of said partial
20 flow from said cold zone of said sintering plant consists of a dust removal treatment.

25. The process according to claim 24, wherein said dust removal treatment of said partial flow from said cold zone takes place in one or more electric or filtering separators.

- 25 26. The process according to claim 23, wherein said partial flow from said hot zone of said sintering plant first undergoes a dust removal treatment before it is introduced into said CO-catalyzer.

27. The process according to claim 25, wherein said dust removal treatment of said partial flow from said hot zone takes place in one or more electric or filtering separators.

28. The process according to claim 23, wherein said partial flow from said hot zone of said sintering plant is additionally subjected to a NOx reducing treatment.

29. The process according to claim 28, wherein said NOx reducing treatment comprises injection of NH₃ into said partial flow from said hot zone of said sintering plant.

30. The process according to claim 23, wherein said partial flow from said hot zone of said sintering plant has a mixing temperature of more than 180°C and said partial flow from said cold zone a mixing temperature of less than 100°C.

31. The process according to claim 23, wherein the dioxin and furan content in the partial flow from the cold zone is less than 0.5 ng/m³ N.T.P.

32. The process according to claim 23, wherein the two partial flows are approximately the same size under standard conditions.

33. The process according to claim 23, wherein said partial flow from said hot zone is exhausted by a fan through an electric or filtering separator, said fan being arranged upstream of said CO-catalyzer.